

Course analysis (course evaluation)

Course code 1BIO43	Course title Biostatistics	Credits 4.5
Semester (VT/HT-yr) HT-2024	Dates 2/9-18/9	

Course Director Matteo Bottai	Examiner Matteo Bottai
Teachers in charge of different parts of the course Pär Villner	Other participating teachers Pär Villner

Number of registered students at the 3-week check 55	Number passed at final course day 47	Response frequency course valuation survey 29
Other methods for student influence (in addition to the final course valuation/survey) Oral feedback session after week 1.		
Feedback reporting of the course evaluation results to the students Analysis on the course web, evaluation on Canvas and course web.		

Note that...

The analysis should (together with a summarising quantitative summary of the students' course evaluation) be communicated to the education committee at the department responsible for the course and for programme courses also to the programme coordinating committee.

The analysis was communicated to the education committee on the following date: 2024-12-08
The analysis was communicated to the programme coordinating committee on the following date: 2024-11-26

1. Description of any changes implemented since the previous course occasion based on the views of former students

Major changes were made last year with regard to the structure and content of the computer labs. Overall, the changes were successful, but a common complaint from student was that the data-wrangling part should receive more attention. Therefore, more exercises focused on data-wrangling were introduced. The exam was too easy last year (with nearly all students passing with distinction). The difficulty was raised slightly to remedy this.

2. Brief summary of the students' evaluation of the course

(Based on the students' quantitative responses to the course valuation and key views from free text responses. Quantitative summary and any graphs are attached.)

Overall, the students are positive to the course. In particular, they appreciate the structure of the course; the lecture notes; and the content of the lab exercises. A complaint is that the exam was too difficult relative to the lab exercises.

3. The Course Director's reflections on the implementation and results of the course

Strengths of the course:

The course has a great structure, with the students learning a huge amount of material in a very short time. The lecture notes and the lab exercises are very well integrated. There is also a friendly

atmosphere during the lectures, with curious students asking questions revealing a genuine interest in statistics.

Weaknesses of the course:

Some of the most basic concepts are difficult to grasp for students. When faced with realistic examples, many of them fail to make the distinction between a population and a sample; and they are puzzled by the fact that we can usually not know what the true value of a population parameter is. Obviously, fully understanding these concepts is difficult for anyone in only two weeks, but the course director should continue to improve the course with this in mind.

3. Other views

The students were not allowed to use large language models such as Chat GPT during the exam. This decision should perhaps be reconsidered, as AI tools are being used in many other courses.

4. Course Director's conclusions and any suggestions for changes

(If changes are suggested, state who is responsible for implementing them and provide a schedule.)

The computer labs can be re-evaluated to consider if a few more difficult exercises should be added, to prepare the students for the more difficult exercises on the exam.

Responsible for this should be the teacher of the course.

Appendices: